The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

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The Cleveland Museum of Art and Great Lakes Theater Festival present
Voices of Ancient Greece

The Cleveland Museum of Art and the Great Lakes Theater Festival will join forces to present *Voices of Ancient Greece* on Wednesday evening, February 22, at 7:30 pm in Gartner Auditorium at the Art Museum.

Voices of Ancient Greece offers an intriguing perspective on both the museum's special exhibition, **A Passion for Antiquities: Ancient Art from the Collection of Barbara and Lawrence Fleischman**, and GLTF's new production, *The Bakkhai*, directed by Gerald Freedman. The Fleischman collection contains scores of work that testify to Dionysian revelries, from bronze sculptures of the beautiful young god to elaborate wine vessels. The play testifies to the rivalry between the exuberant spirit of the god Dionysos and the sedate religious traditions his unruly followers found too confining.

Two actors performing in *The Bakkhai*, Clevelander John Buck, Jr., and Tanny McDonald, with WCPN's director of cultural programming, Dennis Dooley, and musician Phil Newman mix words, music, and images from ancient Greece to transport the audience back to the civilization which nurtured Western traditions of theater and visual arts. Mr. Newman, who lives in Oregon, makes reproductions of ancient Greek musical instruments and will play them during the performance at the museum. Laura K. Abrahamsen, assistant professor of classics at Cleveland State University, and Arielle P. Kozloff, curator of ancient art at the museum, collaborated on the script.

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Voices of Ancient Greece is free and open to the public, as is the exhibition, **A Passion for Antiquities**. The exhibition, the Museum Cafe, and the Museum Store, and all museum galleries will be open on the evening of the performance. **A Passion for Antiquities** is organized by The J. Paul Getty Museum, where it opened in October 1994, and cosponsored by The Cleveland Museum of Art. Generous support for the Cleveland showing is provided by the Ohio Arts Council and for educational programs is provided by Shelby White and Leon Levy. Support for *Voices of Ancient Greece* also comes from The Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, the Ohio Humanities Council, under a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and The Hellenic Preservation Society.

Tickets for *The Bakkhai* at Great Lakes Theater in Playhouse Square, opening March 16, are available at Playhouse Square and all Advantix locations.

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